

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN URGES RESIDENTS TO REGISTER FOR BASIC STAR TAX EXEMPTIONS DECEMBER 31, 2013 DEADLINE

New law requires all homeowners to register for exemption for 2014 and subsequent years

HUNTINGTON, NY – Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16th LD, Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, is urging all homeowners in the Towns of Huntington, Babylon & Islip to register for the Basic STAR Exemption in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and subsequent years. Basic STAR is available to New Yorkers who own and live in their own home, condominium, or co-operative apartment, as a primary residence, provided their household income does not exceed \$500,000.

As part of a new initiative to protect New Yorkers from inappropriate or fraudulent STAR exemptions, the New York State Legislature passed legislation requiring all resident homeowners currently receiving the STAR exemption to register with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. Resident Homeowners **MUST REGISTER BY DECEMBER 31, 2013.** Homeowners will NOT have to re-register every year. If you have not received notification in the mail, you should visit www.tax.ny.gov and click on the "Register for STAR" box. You will need your STAR access code to register. If you do not know your code, you can look it up online or contact the Tax Department at 1-(518) 457-2036. To register, you will need to confirm your access code, address, names and social security numbers for all owners of the property and spouses, confirm that the property is the primary residence, confirm income and that no resident owner receives a residency based tax exemption from another state. To register by phone, call 1-(518) 457-2036.

Senior citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption are not affected by this year's registration process but must continue to either apply annually or participate in the Income Verification Program. Resident homeowners applying for STAR for the first time are not affected by this year's registration process.

"I strongly encourage all eligible homeowners to register for the STAR exemption before December 31, 2013," Legislator Stern said.